

Live Stock and Dairy

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Inquiries of Progressive Farmer readers cheerfully an-
swered.

About Angora Goats.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Will you please say through your paper whether the zig zag or rail fence will turn the Angora goats or not? Also, will barbed wire turn them, and how close should it be, etc.? What grade or breeds is the best? And also give me the names of some one who raises them in this State. And oblige,

Yours truly,

W. H. M.

(Answer by Dr. C. W. Burkett.)

I think in this case our correspondent will find the rail fence satisfactory in turning goats, providing the same is high enough. The goat is an animal that has great ambition to climb. The low fence will not hold him, especially if he sees something of interest on the other side. A six or eight rail fence will hold him, if the same is built straight up. The barbed-wire fence is all right, provided of course the wires are close enough together. One of the most satisfactory fences is the woven wire. There are a good many on the market, and all can be obtained at a reasonable price. I think we ought to have some fields on our farms fenced with pig-tight fence so as to not only hold the larger animals, but pigs and goats as well.

I believe that we are going to realize that cultivated pastures are going to be paying investments to us, and for this reason we are going to try to grow cultivated grasses like bermuda, timothy, and orchard grass. I think the woven wire fence settles the question of protecting sheep from dogs.

Our correspondent here asks the names of some breeders of goats. I am unable to furnish this information, and wish that our readers could be informed. A good many people are writing constantly about farm animals of all classes, and if there was some sort of a farmers' exchange in The Progressive Farmer, I believe it would be a satisfaction to all of us.

LIVE STOCK IN NORTH CAROLINA.

III.—Profit in Raising Mules.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

A high class mule is easily sold to-day for \$200. This price too, has been prevalent for some time, and there is now no indication of a slump in the mule market. No one will deny that there is a large profit in producing a \$200 mule. The trouble is, we are not in a position to produce them in sufficient numbers. To raise the mule now in demand, we must have large well formed mares. Unfortunately, these are very scarce, and before mule raising can ever assume any very great proportions, horse breeding will have to be given more serious thought.

But the big premium always goes to the fellow who gets the thing done first. The short cut to mule raising would be to substitute for present work animals the heavier draft type breeding stock. Where one is employing a considerable number of work animals, he will find that these horses can be had in car-load lots as cheap as, or cheaper, than good work animals of the North Carolina type. They will, too, do more work than the same price North Carolina animal, and if used so that a colt will be dropped in November or December, they will be in prime condition for the heavy spring work.

On most of our large well regulated farms a surplus of work animals is kept for the spring season, and if this surplus can be utilized for breeding purposes at other times, here is just so

much for economy. If the modern cropping systems and rotations are used, feed will be no item, as a great abundance will always be on hand, and if reasonable return can be had thereby it is always better to use feed on the farm than to sell.

Importing mares from the West is an immediate remedy, and as such bids fair to be very remunerative. To look to this, however, to relieve our present work stock condition, would be very similar to the idea of permanent soil improvement by means of commercial fertilizers; neither strike at the root of the condition, but only offer temporary relief.

Our thousands of smaller animals in the State cannot be set aside without loss. The only way to effect this needed change in any large way, is by the use of heavier draft type sires, with a long line of breeding behind them. In this way the problem can best be worked out, and the stock that we now have moulded into a type eminently suited to farm work.

J. S. CATES.

Alamance Co., N. C.

Managing a Flock of Sheep.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

An old French cook in telling how to cook a hare, said: "First catch your hare." So I must say to the Southern people about feeding lambs, first get your lambs, or I might say, get flocks of ewes from which lambs may be raised. I will not insist as to what kind or blood to buy, but from my experience here I would suggest that Merino grades be bought, that will range in size from 80 to 110 pounds, and shear from 5 or 6 to 10 or 12 pounds, and cost from \$3 to \$8 or \$10 per head. They flock well together and are healthy and may be improved in size by using thorough bred rams of mutton breeds or improved both in size and weight of fleece by using very large heavy fleeced Merino blooded rams on them.

In the Chicago Daily Drovers Journal I see that in the first week of January, 1904, there was in the Chicago market 80,000 sheep delivered to and disposed of, and on Monday, January 11, 30,000 sheep, including lambs, came in one day, and were sold at \$2.50 for culls, up to \$5, and from \$4 up to \$6.30 for 53 pound up to 88 pound lambs. On the same day at six markets of the Northwest, Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Sioux City, 42,300 sheep and lambs were received and sold for local consumption and for shipment East. Six large cities of the South should handle a large part of such mutton products from Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and Indian Territory. But no; industrial conditions carry it all North where they consume the best meats and prepare their hog sides and bellies for the South where she takes it in and sends them of her cotton money.

The South could raise all the necessary grain, corn, fodder, pea vine and other hay, to feed all the millions of sheep now in the Northwest and continue to raise far more cotton than she is raising now.

At Statesville here the butcher is retailing fresh pork at 15 cents a pound and no mutton. Good mutton could be produced and sold to consumers here at 10 cents, and fine lamb at 12½ cents, giving good profits to producer and butcher, besides the fleece either on or off the skin.

By reason of several adverse conditions with my flock of Merinos since last spring I cannot boast as much as for either Mr. Gibson's or Mr. Aderholdt's. The latter's flock is in very fine condition, and he has a number of lambs nine months old that will gross one hundred pounds, and such lambs will surely clip 10 pound (if not 12 pound) fleeces, which will give him at least \$2 apiece for his lambs next spring, and he will have his lambs left.

All three of our flocks are healthy; but his are decidedly fat. He says pea vine hay and fod-

der corn are his best feed for them, and that he can raise an abundance of these. If he had not a better use for his lambs he could surely sell them at a nice profit for mutton; that is about \$8 per hundred pounds now in New York. If he had fed his lambs from the first with a purpose of selling them for mutton they would average over 100 pounds gross now, but he had better keep and shear a \$2 or \$2.50 fleece off them annually than to sell them for mutton, and it can clearly be seen that fine wool and not mutton is the solid basis of this Merino sheep business, and yet also that these lambs, though not specially fitted, are in part ready for the mutton market any day.

I am referring the reader to a practical illustration and not to theory alone. This is done right here in the South, and even yet we are sometimes sagely told that Merino sheep will not do well here in the South in this warm latitude.

To follow up this object-lesson further, I will say that the mothers with these lambs came into summer under good keeping conditions, and with the lambs were grazed on fairly good common wild grass pasture, including Japan clover (*Lespedeza Sericata*) until August, when the lambs were weaned and allowed pea stubble and wheat stubble that had been sown to clover and grass where they had at will, shelter, water and salt, in the sulphur, rosin, ashes and copperas (sulphate of iron) in it. They had bran, mill-feed and corn meal mixed, a light feed morning and evening until about November 1st, since when they have run at will on pasture, being housed at night, had pea vine hay and fodder corn (planted late for the purpose) as much as they would eat up clean, with a ration of nearly a pint per day of bran, mill feed and shelled corn, equal parts; being careful to keep the salt mixture, above noted, before them and all the flock in the sheep barn constantly.

For one year we have found this salt mixture a preventive, or antidote, for stomach and other internal worms. It is now January 23rd, and I always considered that if our sheep were on full feed and in fine fix the first of January they were more than half wintered. These lambs, if kept under same conditions and treatment until April, will surely shear a fine heavy fleece and could easily be put in extra mutton shape.

All sheep, especially lambs, should never be allowed to get down in condition, that is, even lean in flesh—and much less, poor; but kept up rather fleshy or even fat. In this condition they will bring in to the owner the largest net profits in wool and lambs and manure, and will at any time be ready to feed off quickly and most profitably to market as mutton. When kept in this way and condition they generally ward off continuously most all dangerous diseases.

Supposing it had been the purpose to feed Mr. Aderholdt's lambs off to mutton this winter or spring, I would have suggested only more care to give them all the pea vine hay and fodder corn, both carefully cured, that they would eat, and about one quart of the corn, mill feed, and bran mixture per day, given morning and evening.

I am now thinking that the best grain feed to fatten our lambs or old sheep in the South, is a grain food of corn two parts, peas two parts, oats one part, cotton-seed meal one part, wheat bran one part—would prefer the three first coarsely ground and all mixed, feeding one quart per day, at two feeds, to lambs and sheep weighing near 100 pounds each. Or they may be fed more or less that quantity, if the shepherd will watch carefully that they all join in eating it up clean and rather greedily at every feed.

Nicely cured clover hay will substitute either the pea vine hay or fodder corn or both for "roughness." The lambs or fattening sheep should have a field or woods lot, not too large, to run out over and exercise on every good day, but never allowing them to get soaking wet with snow or rain, either cold or warm.

Seventy-five pound Merino lambs when on full feed such as this should gain from six ounces to one pound per day average until they reach 100 to 125 pounds gross per head. Such lambs reaching that weight should be of quality and blood that their fleece will easily weigh 10 to 12 pounds.

What I have said about the above bunch of lambs will apply to all other bunches in the South of whatever breed they may be.

I will only add that the manure, saved with the urine carefully from sheep fed as above suggested, is worth in tolerably dry state, to the compost heap or directly applied to land, fifty cents per hundred pounds, or not less than one dollar and fifty cents per annum for each sheep.

SAMUEL ARCHER.

Sheep Walk Farm, Statesville, N. C.